



## **TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD**

Human Services Committee  
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312  
October 12, 2017  
8:00 AM

### **Attendance**

Shari Cantor, Mayor  
Chris Barnes  
Beth Kerrigan, Chair  
Denise B. Hall  
Ben Wenograd

### **Staff**

Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Martha Church, Library Director  
Helen Rubino-Turco, Leisure and Social Services Director  
Pramod Pradhan, Faxon Librarian  
Brittany Stephenson, Town Manager's Office

### **Invited Guest**

Chuck Cleary, Human Rights Commission  
Judy Wyman Kelly, Human Rights Commission  
Barry Walters, Human Rights Commission

### **Members of the Public**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Beth Kerrigan called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. There were brief introductions.
2. **Communications:** Minutes from the April 19, 2017 Human services meeting were acknowledged.
3. **Human Rights Commission:** Members of the Human Rights Commission discussed the Charter of Compassion and City of Compassion initiative with the Committee. Chuck Cleary provided background information on the proposed resolution and outlined its goals and objectives. The resolution would designate the Town of West Hartford as a

compassionate city. It is not meant to be a religious or political statement, would not cost money, and is designed to expand on the Town's long history of compassion. Councilor Hall inquired about using diversity as a theme, highlighting ongoing Town efforts and dedication to diversity. Cleary stated that the theme was selected to incorporate a wide range of efforts. There was a discussion on ways the Town could partner with the Human Rights Commission, level of Town involvement, and initiatives in other cities that have adopted similar resolutions. The Committee agreed to have staff research the experience other communities have had in adopting similar resolutions, and to report back its findings to the Committee. Staff was also asked to request a draft approval resolution from Corporation Counsel for the Committee's consideration at the next meeting.

4. **Library Update:** Director Martha Church provided the library update to the Committee.
  - a. Library Grant- A grant proposal submitted by the Local Historian Library has been accepted. The grant, which is very competitive and selective, will allow staff member Agatha Monahan to receive training on the preservation and archiving digital documents.
  - b. Immigrant Services-Pramod Pradhan discussed various immigrant information resources available to West Hartford library cardholders. The library has a range of databases which include transparent languages, learning express, and career/academic modules. It offers assistance with U.S. citizenship and also English as a Second Language classes. The resources at the library assist with common questions for those relocating to West Hartford.
  - c. Other- The Faxon Library serves at least 10-11 Hartford library cardholders daily. Hartford will be closing 2 locations in January and an increase in these numbers is expected.
5. **Social and Leisure Update:** Director Helen Rubino-Turco provided the social and leisure services update to the Committee.
  - a. Social Services Programs-There has been an incremental growth in the Back to School backpack drive for students and Food Share program. Qualifications include students who have free or reduced lunches. In 2016, 650 students received backpacks. In 2017, 739 students received backpacks. In 2016, 5,000 families were serviced through Food Share. In 2017, 6,000 families were serviced through Food Share.
  - b. Cornerstone Pool Update-Cornerstone has a new management company The Town is looking to change rates and benefit options to residents. There have been a number of renovations that have taken place. The Town is also piloting RecDesk which would help streamline processes. An open house is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This item will be brought back to the Committee in November for discussion on proposed changes to membership fees. Town Council approval would be needed for the proposed fee changes.
  - c. Rockledge Restaurant RFP-The current vendor is retiring at the end of December. An RFP was sent out in September and a walkthrough was held in October. Vendors have

been selected and responses are due October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This item will be brought back to the Committee to review the proposed vendor list.

- d. Update on Other Leisure Programs- *Wolcott Park* planning continues and a meeting has been scheduled with Landscape Architect Peter Miniutti to discuss plans and final recommendations. The next step is sequencing.

*Pop Up Dog Parks*-The Town is working with the Dog Park Coalition on this initiative. Many residents are supportive of this idea but are concerned with location. The Town will pilot temporary dog parks for longer time periods with temporary fences. Potential locations include Eisenhower Park, Kennedy Park, and the UConn Site.

*Pooch Plunge*-The Town is open to using other parks for the annual Pooch Plunge. Historically, Kennedy Park has been the most ideal for the needs of the event.

*Park Signage*-Leagues have requested park signage as a way to increase revenue. There is an ordinance against advertising. This will be a winter project to investigate what could be done. Recommendations will go through zoning.

6. **Other Business:** There was no other business discussed.
7. **Adjournment:** Chairperson Kerrigan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM.